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The Highlander

Thursday **Nov 20 2025** | Issue 716

YOUR OPINION COUNTS - FILL OUT OUR SURVEY PAGE 9 **FREE**

'Tis the season to be jolly

Members of the Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics wave to the crowd at the Minden Santa Claus parade Nov. 15. See more photos on page 19.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Last call for Haliburton Beer Store

By Lisa Gervais

The Beer Store (TBS) officially announced the pending closure of its location at 15 Hops Dr. in Haliburton, with grocery stores trying to figure out what their role will be with empties.

A spokesperson for The Beer Store confirmed the closure for Jan. 11, 2026 in an email to *The Highlander* Nov. 17, sending a press release issued Nov. 13.

"We are making the difficult decision to close the Haliburton Beer Store. We know this is disappointing news for staff, customers, and the local community. This decision reflects specific local circumstances," Ozzie Ahmed, VP Retail TBS said. He did not elaborate on "local circumstances."

He said they would remain open until end of the day Jan. 11, including accepting empties.

"We want to thank customers for their patronage in Haliburton. The Beer Store recognizes the contributions our employees make to the business and in the communities where we operate. All efforts will be made to support employees through this process in alignment with commitments and agreements."

We asked how many employees work at the Haliburton location and had not received an answer as of press time. We attempted to reach out to an employee, however received an email from The Beer Store stating, "staff at retail locations are not spokespeople

Continued **'Grocery'** on page 2

Highlander news

Grocery stores must accept empties in new year

Continued from page 1

for the organization, although awesome ambassadors for the organization."

The Highlander emailed The Beer Store last month asking about a pending closure, and were told Oct. 14 "out of respect for customers and staff, we do not comment or speculate about future changes to our retail network. If a decision is made to close a store, out of respect, the first people to know are our employees."

Haliburton's is the latest in a long line of stores that have been closed since the beginning of 2025.

One person commented on Facebook, "I can't wait to flood the first grocery store with my empties."

Ahmed noted all grocery stores that sell alcohol will be required to accept the return of empties and refund customer deposits starting Jan. 1, 2026.

The Highlander reached out to Steve Todd at Todd's Your Independent Grocer Haliburton and Brad Park at Haliburton Foodland. Both are on vacation this week, and were unavailable to comment. However, *The Highlander* has learned that both stores are trying to figure out what to do about empties.

Meanwhile, Environmental Defence senior program manager, plastics, Karen Wirsig

The Haliburton Beer Store is closing Jan. 11. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

welcomed the news that Ontario grocery stores selling alcohol must start accepting empties.

She said, "we are pleased to learn, one year after the expansion of alcohol sales in grocery and convenience stores went into effect, that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario is enforcing the requirement for certain grocery stores to accept empties as part of the deposit-return program for alcoholic beverages. This is essential for saving the program."

She added the Ontario deposit-return program (ODRP) was at risk of collapse due to the closure of Beer Store locations. By the end of the year, The Beer Store will have closed about 100 outlets.

The Highlander spoke with Beer Store shoppers Nov. 17. One man, who declined to give his name, said, "I think it will affect a lot of people because if the grocery stores can't take the empties, they have to give back their licence, which only leaves us with (convenience stores)."

He said he would buy his beer somewhere in town after Jan. 11 as he won't drive out-of-town to get it.

"It's too bad and there are jobs, too."

Employee Shannon Stinson, on social media Nov. 15, wrote "the rumours are true. The Haliburton Beer Store will be closing Jan. 11, 2026. I would like to thank everyone for the years of support."

What to do with your empties

- The Beer Store has launched a new empty return locator to find another Beer Store or alternative retailer that is accepting empties. They are on The Beer Store's website. In the navigation bar select 'returning empties'. Then, select 'where to return empties'.
- To find the closest Beer Store location, go to www.thebeerstore.ca/locations.
- To find an alternative beer retailer, use the province's website locator at: where to buy alcoholic beverages.

Wheel-y good wine

Minden Health Care Auxiliary volunteers were laughing all the way to the bank last week after wrapping their "hugely successful" 'wine on wheels' fundraiser. The group raised $3,000 selling raffle tickets for the grand prize, which was won by Minden's Davida Freel, who got to take home more than 30 bottles of fine wine as well as a brand-new wheelbarrow. Auxiliary member Cecille Gibbons said the funds will support improvements to Hyland Crest Long-Term Care Home, Haliburton Highlands Health Services' adult day program, and operations at the Minden Health Hub. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Gibbons said the auxiliary is in need of fresh blood. "We still have members who have been with us since 2000, but we're always looking for new ones. Please consider volunteering – it's very rewarding," Gibbons said. Anyone interested in becoming a member can contact cgibbons24@hotmail.com. *(Mike Baker)*

Right: The Minden Health Auxiliary's Peggy Cassils, Cecille Gibbons, Mickey Bonham (back row) and Marlene Robinson (holding wheelbarrow) pictured with the 'wine on wheels' raffle winner Davida Freel (seated). *Photo submitted.*

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Highlander news

Minden Hills to resume septic inspections

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills hopes to revise its beleaguered septic reinspection program by bringing it in-house,

Council, at a Nov. 13 meeting, gave deputy chief building official, Tim Lewis, the green light to hire a septic inspector to take over the portfolio – at an estimated cost of more than $80,000-a year to taxpayers.

Lewis told council, "within the municipality of Minden Hills, there are approximately 5,000 septic systems. Under the septic reinspection program, approximately one-third of these systems have been reinspected by a third-party firm to date. The external program was costly and did not achieve all of the intended results."

He said having a rolling reinspection program is essential for protecting the township's lakes. Further, he said it helps residents by detecting potential issues sooner, avoiding costly repairs and replacements; and teaches them how to maintain and operate systems.

Lewis said new software allows staff to do the tracking, schedule checks, track data, and correspond with homeowners.

"A total of 2,229 properties were inspected under the former reinspection program,

Two workers check a septic system in a backyard. *File.*

leaving 2,771 left to be inspected. With an additional inspection resource, staff anticipate completing the outstanding inspections within a 2.5-year period and that a five-year rolling re-inspection program can be maintained."

He suggested the inspection fee remain at $240, consistent with what people have been charged to date. Once the cycle is done, he said council could reconsider the cost. He estimated staffing costs at $82,000-a-year, for salary, benefits, personal protective equipment, and expenses.

Lewis said, "bringing the program in-house is cost-recoverable while providing a consistent, trackable, and sustainable inspection service."

Coun. Bob Sisson asked if it was a mandatory program. Lewis said while not mandatory, he would not advise the township stepping away from it. He said protecting the township's lakes is important for tourism, and quality of life.

Coun. Pam Sayne lobbied hard to bring it in-house. She said she had been getting calls from people asking when the township would be reinstating the program, as they are concerned about lake health. She added she thinks the program will pay for itself as they are charging a fee and if someone is in arrears, it can be added to their tax bill.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said she was 100 per cent behind the township doing the program. However, she argued against bringing it in-house. She said they should tender for a different third-party provider. She said they lack office space, and thought it would cost more than $82,000-a year. "It takes more than one set of boots on the ground to even do these inspections."

Sayne disagreed, saying an in-house service would be more efficient, particularly around communications, oversight and administration.

Mayor Bob Carter said, "anything that is going to increase the budget I'm naturally against." However, he said he would appreciate the consistency.

Coun. Ivan Ingram added if they are looking at a continuous program, it would mean renewing contracts, or long-term contracts, with providers.

In the end, council agreed to move the program in-house.

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Bailey Barn update

Minden Hills council, Nov. 13, voted to leave the Bailey Barn, at the Minden Hills heritage village, as is - with staff researching potential grants to fix it up.

Candace McGuigan, director of community services, said people can now look at the exterior of the historic building, but cannot enter it. Staff do inspections every spring and fall.

The township hired Tatham Engineering to do a structural assessment. Some of their recommendations included a new foundation, at a cost of $120,000; or demolition, for $20,000. However, there was a potential for resale of logs.

McGuigan said staff and the Minden Hills advisory committee are looking into the possibility of heritage conservation or tourism grants.

Coun. Shirley Johannessen said she'd been an advocate for the Bailey Barn since joining council. "That being said, I believe we need to put this to bed at some point. But I would like to look at the grants, if possible. If that doesn't follow through, I would still like to keep some of the wood; maybe sell some of it but not get rid of it all and make some benches or something we can put somewhere just to keep the Bailey Barn history a little bit."

Council agreed with that option. Mayor Bob Carter said, "if a grant somewhere, somehow, in any way to do this, by all means. We can't afford the $120,000."

Mayor's budget

Council received a report at the meeting outlining how mayors under the Strong Mayors Act – such as Carter - can now influence the municipal budget process.

After reviewing the report, Coun. Tammy McKelvey commented "talk about inefficient."

Mayor Bob Carter agreed that in parts, "it's craziness, but that's the rules put forward."

McKelvey noted council had passed a resolution against the Act, with a request for copies to be sent to neighbouring townships and the province. She asked for a status report on that, but staff said they would have to report back.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she did not like the Strong Mayors Act. She said some townships are proceeding with their budgets the way they always have. She fears "backroom organizing" in cases where two-thirds of council are needed to win a motion.

"It does not lead to transparency …"

McKelvey viewed it as an "administrative nightmare." She also wanted to know how detailed budget papers would be for councillors. Carter replied "fairly high level." McKelvey retorted, "I think that's a terrible decision for the rest of council. I just want that on record."

Council received the report as information only.

(*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

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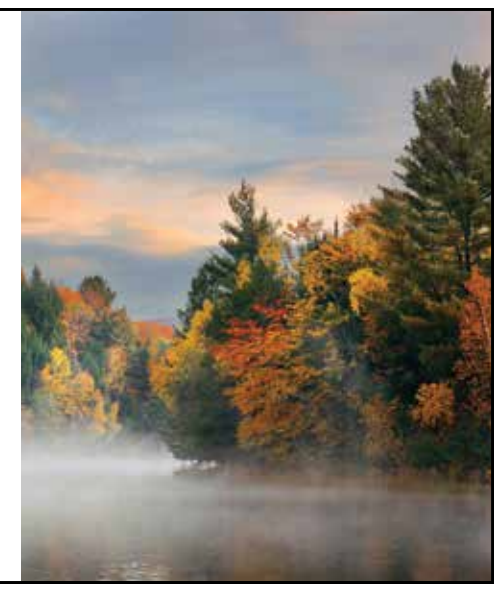

Highlander news

DYSART ET AL NEWS

New entrance

Dysart et al council has supported a proposal from Rails End Gallery to construct a new deck and primary entrance, improving accessibility to Haliburton's public art gallery.

Rails End's curator Laurie Jones and board chair Pat Moffatt said the existing deck, which provides access via an entrance facing Head Lake Park, is at the end of its life. They are proposing a new 10-foot-by-10-foot extension be added to the building, creating a new entry fronting York Street.

The project has been estimated at around $200,000, with Rails End applying for grant money through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). To support the application, Dysart agreed to write a letter of support in favour of the project and extended Rails End's existing lease by another five years.

"I'd like to emphasize that the new entrance will not affect the historical and architectural features this building is known for," Jones said. "We have long felt that an entrance off York Street would be a really good thing. It will allow more people to come in and make York Street look so much better and more inviting."

Jones said deck replacement and exterior façade upgrades are the top two priorities on Rails End's maintenance schedule. The new deck will help reduce pooling of water and ice along York Street, provide a safer and more accessible entry point to the gallery and bring down costs for heating and snow removal.

If approved, the project will be completed next summer.

Things are heating up

The township is investing up to $25,000 to replace the heaters at A.J. LaRue Arena.

Andrew Wilbee, Dysart's director of parks and recreation, said three heaters with propane conversion kits were deemed unsafe for use following a routine inspection over the summer.

The old units lasted 10 years, Wilbee said, noting they were installed improperly, which caused them to crack and release gases into the arena. He expects the new units will last longer.

Council approved a spend of $21,000 to $25,000, with the project to be included in the 2026 budget.

Recreation expansion

Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events, got the green light to apply for $100,000 in grant money through OTF to expand recreational programming in the community.

Mueller said the money would allow the township to expand its existing programs, such as youth and womens soccer, track and field, senior fitness and dancing in the park. If successful, she said there's interest in running indoor soccer through the fall and winter. Trillium Lakelands District School Board has confirmed gym space at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School is available for rent, Mueller said.

She said the public has been asking about more dance and fitness offerings.

"We are getting 18 people on average at every one of our senior fitness sessions and have had requests for more options. It's the same for dancing in the park – we had the classes in June, but people want more," Mueller said. "With this grant, we could expand all of these and there would be no cost to the township."

Foot bridge alternatives

Council baulked at the estimated $590,000 cost to replace a steel footbridge in Head Lake Park, directing staff to investigate options for a portable, prefabricated bailey bridge instead.

The township learned in October 2024 that the bridge needed replacing. They approved the project in the spring, with money to be drawn from parkland reserves. Public works director, Rob Camelon, said there's $303,284 currently in the parkland reserve, suggesting council could pull from the roads capital reserves, which sits at almost $2.3 million, to fund the rest.

It was noted the underside of the bridge is heavily rusted – Camelon recommended a structural evaluation to see if it needs to be closed, which will cost around $10,000. That work will be done immediately, with

Rails End Gallery wants a new main entrance. *File.*

Camelon also asked to source estimates for a bailey bridge, with an expected cost of less than $100,000. A follow-up report will be prepared for Dysart's Nov. 25 or Dec. 9 meeting. *(Dysart et al briefs compiled by Mike Baker)*

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Caboose community bike hub coordinator Pamela Marsales at the space in Head Lake Park. *File.*

Haliburton cycling caboose in limbo

By Mike Baker

Following the success of a six-month cycling pilot in Haliburton village this summer, Pamela Marsales says the Caboose Community Bike Hub located in Head Lake Park needs community support if it's to return for another season.

The space opened in April after the Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) secured $30,000 in seed grant funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The money was used to renovate the caboose in Head Lake Park, allowing the space to be used as a focal point for cycling-related programming in the downtown.

Marsales said FoRT planned to apply for a follow-up OTF grow grant for 2026, but the project didn't make the cut. She told Dysart et al council Oct. 28 more money would be needed to support the hub's operations next year.

"The bike hub gave new purpose to the caboose, which had been sitting empty and had pretty much become a storage shed. It added new vibrant energy to the entrance to Head Lake Park," Marsales said. "The project served literally all ages, from 18 months to people in their 80s. The caboose was an inviting space for visitors."

She estimated about 200 people visited the caboose and participated in community rides and workshops throughout the summer, with the hub closing for the season in October.

She asked if Dysart would consider dedicating money in the 2026 budget to support another season of cycling, but council was unconvinced.

"The problem with these things is, you get the seed grant and then don't get the one after that, so then everyone comes to the township looking for money. It just isn't [realistic]," said mayor Murray Fearrey. "I don't think the space is an issue. The caboose looks a lot better… but we're working on the budget now and it's not looking too good."

Following further discussion, coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts suggested council was fine committing the space for another season, but not any additional funds.

Marsales said there are numerous benefits to continuing the program. She said the caboose drew visitors from other areas, with a seniors cycling group from Sudbury stopping in to learn about the Rotary bike share. Marsales said they intended to launch something similar in their home community.

Guided rides through the downtown were popular, Marsales said, helping to showcase all that Haliburton village has to offer. She said the Rotary bikes, a regular target for local vandals, have had a quieter season.

"Since this project has been active, there's been a rise in responsible use of the bike share. We can keep an eye on everything happening in the park, keep running our programming, which was very popular through summer," Marsales said.

She estimates there are 1.7 million cyclists in Ontario, generating an economic impact of $517 million per year. On average, visiting cyclists spend $317 when riding in a new area. She pitched a similar arrangement to the one Dysart has with Rails End Gallery, where the municipality contributes money for operations and maintenance.

"It's a unique opportunity to continue supporting a location that gets high visibility and enjoyed a successful year of programming this summer. It would be a shame to see that space sit empty again," Marsales said.

Dysart did not commit any money, with Marsales saying she intends to approach Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) for funding. A formal request for municipal funding will be considered during 2026 budget talks, Fearrey said.

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U-Links looking for more local research projects

By Mike Baker

U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research has put out a final call to the community to submit their research project proposals for consideration for the upcoming winter and spring post-secondary semester.

Frank Figuli, the non-profit's program coordinator, said U-Links is looking to take on at least five new environmental-based projects over the coming weeks. He's also hoping to see submissions covering the social sector.

The County-based organization takes potential projects submitted by community groups or residents and matches them with student researchers from Fleming College and Trent University, who work in the field in the Highlands compiling data that they hope can provide answers to long-lingering questions.

Since 1999, U-Links has partnered with more than 3,000 students on over 600 projects. Staff assist with developing comprehensive project proposals, identifying research questions and how best to collect data.

"We're here to increase knowledge capital and guide informed decision making through these projects," Figuli said. "There's not anything too small or too niche – we always find a way to incorporate a host's needs into an experiential learning opportunity for a student.

"It's a mutual benefit – the community gets vital information, which can change the way we look at a certain area, or how we care or protect it moving forward. The students, meanwhile, are taking away skills that would be very hard to get in a traditional academic setting," Figuli added.

Each year, U-Links takes on between 25 and 30 projects, Figuli said, with students presenting their findings at an annual celebration of research event, held in Haliburton every March. Next year's event is scheduled for March 28.

Figuli said U-Links staff are currently assisting students on 28 projects – including a study of artificial nesting platforms for loons, investigating alternatives to fireworks, and development of a hazardous algae bloom reporting framework. He expects all of those to be presented at the upcoming research celebration.

A Trent University student assesses a County lake in 2023. *Photo submitted.*

He said about 85 per cent of the projects U-Links takes on are environmental – with studies and monitoring of the area's 600-plus lakes a constant theme.

Other recent notable projects, Figuli said, include an artificial light analysis of Paudash Lake, which he said focused on some of the ecological impacts of light pollution; an investigation into how apples could pave the way for increased agri-tourism in the Highlands; and a study of the benefits of the renaturalization of Abbey Gardens, which is flourishing on the site of a spent gravel pit.

A research paper on the work U-Links assisted with at Abbey Gardens was recently published in the summer edition of *Canadian Reclamation* magazine.

Figuli is also looking for opportunities it can provide first-year college and university students through its community service learning program (CSL). Last year, youth led educational activity stations at the annual Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival, helped stabilize sensitive shorelines around Glamor Lake by planting native plants, and established year-round inspection sites at Waverley Brook Farm to track the impacts of weather changes and shifting environment.

All project proposals are due by Nov. 24 and can be submitted to Figuli at coordinator@ulinks.ca.

"Our bottlenecks this year are not students – we have enough of those. It's finding hosts and projects," he said. Once a project is accepted, the possibilities are almost limitless, Figuli added. "We've seen a project started at the undergraduate level and escalate, with different students, to a master's thesis… this is one of the more unique ways people can make a difference in their community."

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree

Algonquin Highlands Township residents will have an opportunity to weigh-in on how they feel the municipality should replace the community Christmas tree at the Dorset Centennial Lions Park.

Parks, recreation and trails manager, Chris Card, told council during a Nov. 6 meeting that the existing tree, planted in 1994, is at the end of its life. He's suggesting replacing the tree with a mature one they'd bring in and plant or utilize an existing white pine in the park.

A survey will be going live on Bang the Table – the township's virtual engagement platform – before this year's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, taking place Nov. 30 at 4:30 p.m. He said staff are planning to light both the outgoing tree and the proposed new tree, so people can make an informed opinion. He noted any replacement would have to be planted close to a power outlet.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux suggested holding a ceremony of gratitude for the old tree, suggesting people bring non-perishable food items that can be donated to local food banks.

Budget talks

Council has set its schedule for 2026 budget deliberations, with talks set to get underway later this month.

The annual projects and priorities meeting, where council meets with the heads of each department to get a sense of the big-picture items to be funded next year, is taking place Nov. 27. Treasurer Jean Hughes said staff will submit their budgets to her in January, with a full presentation coming to council Feb. 23 and 24 and approval in March.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said it's likely to be a tough year for staff, council and local ratepayers.

"We've going to be facing some very serious increases from outside sources that we have little or no control over. We'll have to see how that impacts what we'll be doing here, because we have our own priorities," Danielsen said. *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker)*

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Editorial opinion

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To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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‘Buck a beer’ Ford

By Lisa Gervais

I’m a bit of a purist. I like to keep things simple. And I do believe in the old adage, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.

Like many of you, I grew up with parents who were social drinkers. And that meant waiting in the car on occasion while my dad went into The Beer Store. Not the grocery store to buy his carton; not the convenience store; and certainly not the gas station.

With drinking and driving still a problem here in Haliburton County, and across the province, who thought that would be a good idea? Oh, yeah, Doug Ford.

When alcohol sales were expanded to all Ontario grocery stores on Oct. 31, 2024, I had an uneasy feeling. That followed a rollout that began with licensed grocery stores selling ready-to-drink beverages on July 18, 2024. This allowed for the sale of beer, wine, cider, and ready-to-drink beverages in all eligible grocery and big-box stores. And, on Sept. 5, 2024, alcohol sales began for eligible convenience stores.

I knew the writing was on the wall for The Beer Store. Beginning in July, the closures have been fast and furious. I have been checking The Beer Store site, waiting for a location in our area to fall under the axe.

The Beer Store is closing numerous Ontario locations in 2025 due to market changes, although the company said it’s committed to keeping 300 stores open until the end of the year as part of an agreement with the provincial government.

I don’t know about you, but I can say that I have never purchased alcohol at a grocery store in Haliburton County. I have at long-established convenience stores in Carnarvon and West Guilford. I have never bought booze at a gas station. Like I said, I am a purist, keep it simple, don’t fix it if it ain’t broken kind of person. I generally go to The Beer Store and the LCBO.

So, while not surprised, I was disappointed to learn about the closing of the Haliburton Beer Store on Hops Drive. I feel bad for the employees. I feel bad for long-time patrons, who now have to figure out where they will buy their beer, and take their empties, after Jan. 11.

I also feel bad for the two grocery stores in Haliburton that have been selling alcohol. I can imagine the prospect of having to take empties is daunting. For health reasons, they won’t be able to let people bring in dirty cans from backyard fires or hunting trips inside the stores. They would need separate space and likely staff to manage the returns. It is a potentially expensive headache.

They’ll now have some big choices to make; expand to accept empties or possibly revoke licences for booze sales.

I can’t help but think all of this could have been avoided if Doug ‘buck a beer’ Ford and his Ontario government had just kept out of the alcohol market, and let it take care of itself. I would have preferred that The Beer Store be left alone.

I worry about Ford’s plans for the LCBO. After all, the premier seems very adept at fixing what isn’t broken and further breaking what should be fixed.

LETTERS

Questioning Dysart et al

Dear editor,

On Nov. 25, 9:05 a.m., there will be another public meeting (at Dysart et al) regarding the proposed official plan and zoning bylaw amendments to permit one accessory building (shed, gazebo, sauna) near the shoreline of a waterbody.

The proposed amendments go against the objectives of the Dysart Official Plan (2.2), which was written to enhance and preserve those environmental qualities which contribute to the attraction of the municipality. The OP states that development is to protect the natural characteristics and visual aesthetics of shorelines.

The most concerning proposed amendment would allow a 10 sq.m (107.64 sq.ft.) covered gazebo, constructed with glass or screen, with no setback from the high-water mark. This could permit a large glass structure, possibly 18’ x 5.98’, to be built directly on the shoreline. This type of development would limit any natural buffer zone, disrupt nesting, shelter and feeding for wildlife, cause erosion and shoreline degradation. It could result in bird collisions, light and noise pollution and blocked views for neighbours. Could someone also use the roof top as a deck? The cumulative visual impact on our shorelines would diminish the natural beauty of Dysart’s waterbodies, detract from the natural environment, make our lakes less attractive to residents and visitors and also may affect property values.

Numerous lake associations have written to council in opposition to these amendments.

People very knowledgeable in shoreline protection and lake health spoke to Dysart council on July 8, 2025.

Dysart’s own director of planning questions changing the well-established shoreline policies that have protected our waterbodies.

Dysart completed a public survey regarding the proposed amendments and the largest percentage of respondents felt that buildings within the minimum water setback will impact waterbodies and shorelines and that no buildings should be permitted.

We have seen very little positive feedback. Support appears to come from short-term rental operators that may have a problem obtaining a STR licence due to current illegal structures in the shoreline area. Could this be the motivation for these proposed amendments?

Speak up to preserve and protect the beautiful pristine lakes that are so precious to Haliburton.

Christine and Jim Legge
Redstone Lake

Town stops progress

Dear editor,

For 20 years, I’ve made it a point to stop in Minden year-round to support local businesses on my way to the cottage.

Over time, I’ve watched the downtown slowly deteriorate.

Now, council is discouraging BIA talks, yet another blow to Minden’s future.

The hospital closure should come as no surprise when progress has been consistently blocked at every turn.

We cannot help a community that refuses to help itself. Minden deserves better, but change requires openness and action, not obstruction. Sadly, it’s getting harder to stop in a town that stops progress at every turn.

Sarah Flint
Kennisis Lake

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

AND/OR

SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Editorial opinion

Random act of kindness

Dear editor,

On Oct. 29, my mom brought my 15-month-old daughter, Tate, to Pharmasave in Minden. My daughter loves to browse the aisles at the store and was enamoured by a pink sweater that had caught her eye.

A gentleman who was also shopping took notice of how much Tate was drawn to the pink sweater, and bought it for her.

We wanted to say thank you to the kind stranger whose random act of kindness has made my daughter so happy.

Vanessa Mandel
Minden Hills

The power of film, food and community

Dear editor,

We're just getting a wee bit older every year — but somehow didn't notice until HIFF 2025 rolled around and we realized time had quietly crept up on us. So, we decided to celebrate anyway and bought VIP passes. We signed up for the Haliburton movie marathon — seven films in one evening, one full day, and a bit of Sunday.

To make things more exciting, the new and rather terrifying and fantastic *Frankenstein* (for technical reasons) had to be screened at the Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount. We wisely chose the afternoon show, hoping to avoid night driving and bad weather. Not so. On the drive back, after seeing that spectacular *Frankenstein* production, we faced heavy rain and thick fog — but it was absolutely worth it.

Saturday brought four incredible films, followed by two more on Sunday, ending with *Köln75*. What a ride. Somewhere in between, I got a bit carried away and purchased 'dinner for two' in support of the Haliburton Heat Bank — an event hosted at the Bonnie View Inn and presented by four of the finest chefs in the County. We barely had time to get home, feed the dog, rest a little, and then head out again for Sunday night's extravaganza. With snow beginning to fall, we took our time driving and were rewarded with one of the best meals we've had in ages.

The entire weekend was a triumph. Each of the seven films celebrated the resilience of the human spirit, and every one of the four courses at dinner showcased the extraordinary talents of chefs working together to support the Heat Bank.

Yes, at our age, spreading such adventures over two weekends might have been wiser — but honestly, where else could you compress such a tour de force into 58 unforgettable hours? This weekend reminded us again of the incredible spirit of this community, powered by an army of volunteers who give countless hours to make events like HIFF possible.

A big shout-out to the dedicated volunteers who watch hundreds of films to curate the lineup, to the Lions Club for the delicious snacks and refreshments, to the chefs and servers at the dinner, and to all those unseen heroes behind the scenes. Together, they make Haliburton one of the best places to live— and to celebrate the power of film, food, and community.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

THE HIGHLANDER COMMUNITY SURVEY

What do you want from your community newspaper?

Tell us and be entered in our draw to win $100, $50 or $25 gift card

1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ Under 18	☐ Male	☐ Full-time resident	☐ Employed
☐ 19–29	☐ Female	☐ Part-time resident	☐ Unemployed
☐ 30-44	☐ Resident of Dysart et al	☐ Cottager	☐ Retired
☐ 45-64	☐ Resident of Minden Hills	☐ Local	☐ Student
☐ 65-80	☐ Resident of Algonquin Highlands	☐ Lifelong Resident	☐ Business owner
☐ 81+	☐ Resident of Highlands East	☐ Newcomer	☐ Volunteer
☐ High School grad	☐ I try to shop locally	☐ Professional	☐ I usually vote in elections
☐ College/Uni grad	☐ I use social media	☐ Tradesperson	☐ I wouldn't live anywhere else

2. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ The Highlander	☐ The Echo
☐ Minden Times	☐ Facebook
☐ Instagram	☐ Canoe FM
☐ Moose FM	☐ Friends/Family (Word of Mouth)
☐ I don't follow local news	☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. HOW DO YOU GET NEWS IN GENERAL? RANK YOUR 1ST, SECOND AND 3RD SOURCES OF NEWS BY PUTTING A 1, 2 OR 3 BELOW

☐ Print newspapers	☐ Online newspapers
☐ Social Media	☐ Television
☐ Online Video (e.g. Youtube)	☐ Radio
☐ Podcasts	☐ Print Magazines
☐ Online News Sites	☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ THE HIGHLANDER IN EACH FORMAT?

	Weekly	1-3x per Month	Sometimes	Never
Print Newspaper	☐	☐	☐	☐
Website	☐	☐	☐	☐
Downloaded PDF	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you don't read The Highlander regularly, please tell us why: _____

5. HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST NEWS FROM:
(LEAVE BLANK FOR SOURCES NOT USED)

	Don't Trust									Trust Completely
The Highlander	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Facebook	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Instagram	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TikTok	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Television	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Google/MSN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Other	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(Please specify): _____

6. WHICH LOCAL TOPICS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ Municipal Government/Politics	☐ Local Businesses
☐ Arts	☐ Environment
☐ Local Events	☐ Sports (Adults)
☐ Real Estate	☐ School Sports
☐ Trades	☐ Bids & Tenders
☐ Health & Mental Health	☐ Seniors
☐ Cottaging	☐ Restaurants/Eating Out
☐ Local History & Heritage	☐ Opinions
☐ Letters to the Editor	☐ Hunting & Fishing
☐ Local School News	☐ Job Postings
☐ Product Reviews	☐ Puzzles
☐ Weekly Calendar	☐ Non-Profit Activities
☐ Finance & Economics	☐ Investigations
☐ Life Events e.g. Weddings/Obits	☐ Profiles of Local People
☐ Other (please specify): _____	

Complete the survey online instead, here.
www.thehighlander.ca/survey

Are there topics you wish we covered more, less or differently?

7. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT ADVERTISING IN THE HIGHLANDER ARE TRUE? (TICK AS MANY AS APPLY)

- ☐ I read at least some of the advertisements.
- ☐ I am more likely to shop at a store that advertises in The Highlander
- ☐ The Highlander's ads are attractive
- ☐ I look in The Highlander for deals and specials at local stores
- ☐ I have responded to at least one ad in The Highlander this year
- ☐ I look at The Highlander when I need a local service or product
- ☐ I've found products/services I didn't know existed in The Highlander
- ☐ I trust ads in The Highlander more than social media and web ads

8. PICK JUST ONE THING

What would be ONE thing in The Highlander that would make you want to read it every week? _____

9. DREAM BIG

If you could wave a magic wand and transform The Highlander into exactly what you want it to be, what would that look like? What would make you excited to read it every week and make The Highlander your #1 choice for local news and information?

(If you need more space, feel free to send an email to editor@thehighlander.ca with your thoughts and ideas.)

PRIZE DRAW (OPTIONAL)

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2024 Yamaha Snoscoot ES

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2024 Yamaha Sidewinder LTX-GT EPS

SALE $14,049

2024 Yamaha SX Venom

SALE $6,500

2022 Yamaha SX Venom

SALE $6,594

2023 Kawasaki Brute Force 300

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2024 Yamaha Kodiak EPS 700

SALE $3,099

2024 Yamaha YFZ50

SALE $12,894

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2024 Kawasaki Brute Force 750 EPS

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Bonnie Roe said Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands (ATAC) recently received its not-for-profit designation. *File*.

Seniors group secures non-profit status

By Mike Baker

Aging Together As Community Haliburton Highlands (ATAC) is celebrating another important milestone, says lead Bonnie Roe, with the group recently securing official charity status through the Canada Revenue Agency.

Roe said ATAC received non-profit designation in August – a move she believes sets the organization up well for the future. It's been almost three years since Roe and her husband, Greg, and a handful of other community activists joined forces, creating a group committed to advocating for and supporting seniors across the County.

They launched, initially, as the Haliburton Highlands Long-Term Care Coalition, transitioning to ATAC last year. Roe said the group's purpose has always been to educate seniors about the programs and services available to help them live fulfilling lives well into their golden years.

"We wanted to take a grassroots community perspective to get people to open up and share their stories, to find out what issues people are living through here and how we can try to help them," Roe told *The Highlander*.

Speaking to the non-profit designation, Roe said it was a lot of work.

"Many, many hours spent filling out paperwork… we think this is a very important step, as having this status gives us structure. We now need to develop bylaws and policies, which makes us more accountable to the community," Roe said. "Most importantly, it gives us some level of stability financially, because it does open more doors for funding, which will allow us to do more.

"The overarching goal now is to build capacity through our programming, which should help us attract new members," Roe added, noting ATAC has a mailing list of about 500 people, with hundreds attending events through 2025.

A community celebration to mark the charitable distinction is being held Nov. 23 at the Haliburton Legion, from noon to 3 p.m. It will double as a chili "funraiser", Roe said, with ATAC looking to secure funds to see them through the winter.

In its first year, ATAC received $22,500 through a federal New Horizons for Seniors grant. It got another $25,000 via Ontario's Seniors Community Grant Program in summer 2024, but Roe admitted the coffers are largely empty as the group tries to maintain a presence through the shoulder months.

"This is a transition time for us. From the end of summer until April, we have no funding. We will, hopefully, be getting some money in April, but we really need some support until then," Roe said.

Six County-based restaurants will be supplying homemade chili – Stone 21 at Pinestone Resort, SIRCH Bistro, Boshkung Smokehouse, Dominion Hotel, Poquito Loco and Features Brasserie. Haliburton Foodland and Wintergreen Maple Products are also involved, offering their support.

Roe said Dr. Nell Thomas will give a presentation at 1:30 p.m. titled 'love, vitality and value: the legacy of our elders', which Roe says will unpack the impact older generations have had on society. Live entertainment will be provided by Gary Baumgartner and Mixed Bag, featuring Dave Bathe and George Porter.

The event is by-donation, with Roe telling people to pay what they can, with a suggested amount of $20. Registration is required, through atachhevents@gmail.com or 705-457-6579.

ATAC is actively looking for more board members, with Roe saying there's an opening for two new members.

"We're looking for motivated individuals to volunteer in an area that speaks to your interests, values and those of ATAC," Roe said. "Do you enjoy event planning, board governance or participating in working groups? Fundraising or writing grants? Not all roles are time-intensive and may easily fit your schedule.

"Our events bring together people young and old who believe that aging is an important community discussion that requires planning and finding creative solutions together," Roe added.

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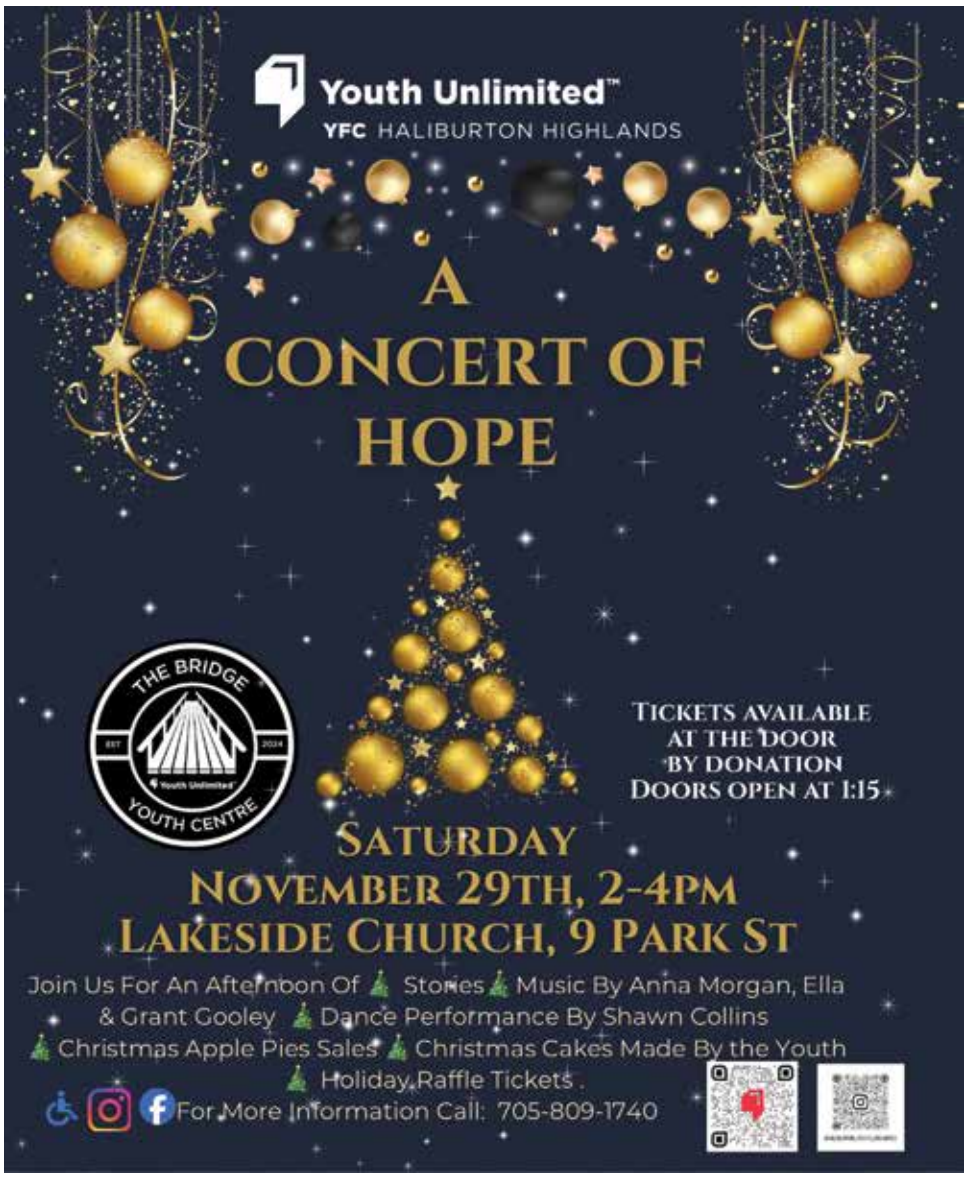
www.sirch.on.ca/donate

Highlander events

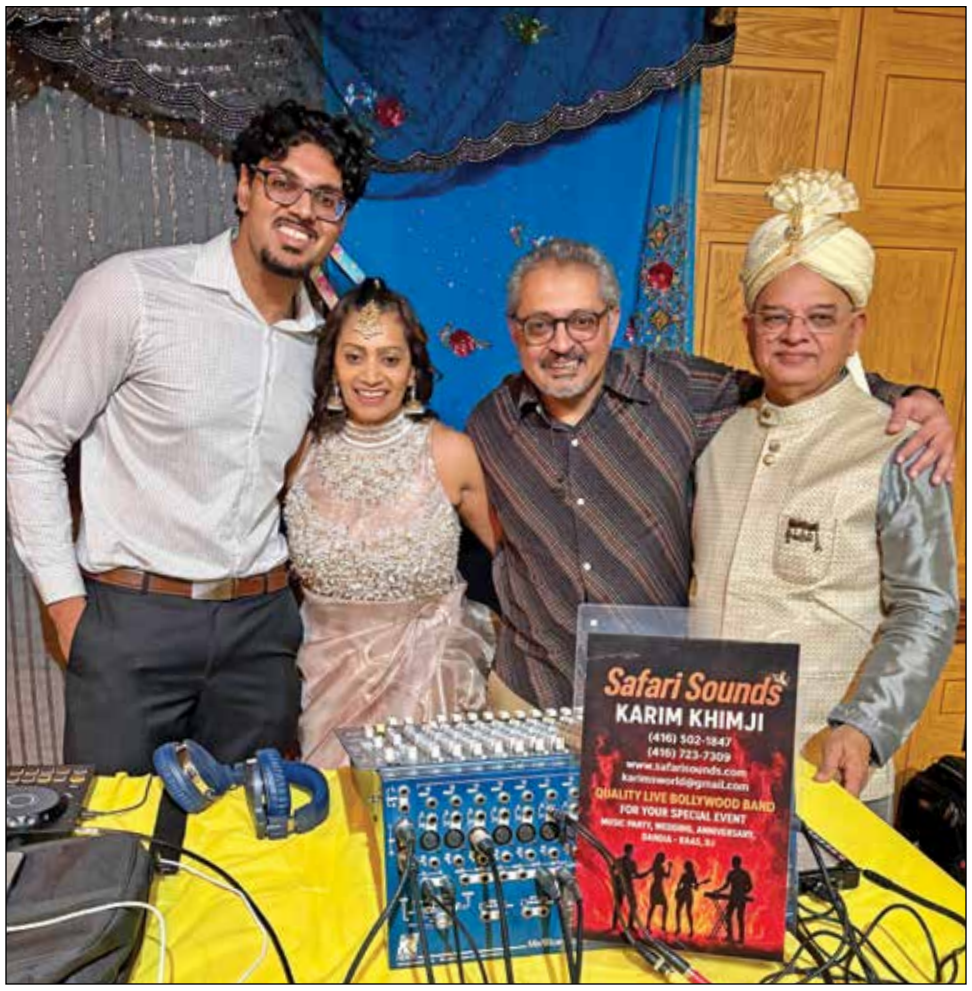
Christmas in the village

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre served up festive fun and community spirit Nov. 15. Kids and their families enjoyed a visit with Santa, live music by Gord Kidd, facepainting by Pockets the Clown, and a local vendor Christmas market featuring handmade goods and seasonal crafts. They warmed up with hot chocolate, explored an old-fashioned candy shop, created keepsakes at the Christmas ornament craft station, and wrote letters to Santa at a letter writing station. Families also joined in the scavenger hunts and took in the festive decorations throughout the site. (*Lisa Gervais*)

Top: Chayce and Mackenzie Newton pose for the cameras. Middle: Kaylee Tugak writes a letter to Santa, along with Mavis Nangmalik. Bottom: Mary Hamilton and Quinn Hamilton in the candy shop. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



Highlander events



Bringing the light

Diwali, a Hindu festival of lights, was held Nov. 15 at the Haliburton Legion. It was an evening of food, dance, music and performances. People had an opportunity to learn some traditional Indian folk dances and try out their moves with a live band. The event was put on by DH3, part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative. (*Lisa Gervais)*

Left: People enjoyed a traditional Indian meal. Right: Safari Sounds provided the music. Left to Right DJ Ali Khimji with Harsha Manani, Karim Khimji and Jagdish Shrimali. Inset: Yasmin Schoenke provided dancing. *Submitted.*

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Haliburton	705-457-3010	Registration Starts Nov. 24 Call between 11 AM - 1 PM

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Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment or to inquire further, please contact: Christine

705-306-2782
bodymednorth@gmail.com

Highlander events

Christmas treats

At Abbey Gardens night market, Nov. 15, guests explored a cozy, heated vendor tent filled with local artisan creations, and enjoyed festive drinks. About 20 vendors offered handmade gifts, jewellery, décor, and seasonal treasures. (*Lisa Gervais*)

Left: Sara Veenhof and Cordelia Jorritsma mix drinks. Right: Youth vendor, Emery Steele. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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Highlander sports

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Saturday November 22nd

10AM-4PM
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Jason Morissette talks to his new Red Hawks hockey team at a recent practice. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*

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Red Hawks to lace up skates for 35th season

By Lisa Gervais

After a four-year absence, Hal High Red Hawks hockey is back.

Coach Jason Morissette and his squad have been on the ice practicing and will host I.E. Weldon Secondary School from Lindsay in their home-opener Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

Morissette said with COVID-19, "hockey took quite a wallop in terms of numbers," He added it isn't the easiest sport to maintain because of cost and logistics. Things were further exacerbated because there was no Highland Storm Midget team for a couple of years.

However, the coach said, "things seem to have picked back up and kids are involved in lots of activities."

More recently, the cooperative education teacher said he'd been approached by parents, students, Red Hawks hockey alumni, and people involved in minor hockey about bringing a team back.

He began working towards that goal this past summer. Initially, he considered a junior team, but there was solid interest from older students so he pivoted to a varsity team.

He's found players that don't compete on other Red Hawk teams, and others who travel out of town to play hockey. In fact, for 15 of 21, this will be their first team sport at the school.

"This is something that is going to help them," Morissette said.

He played all kinds of sports when he attended Hal High, including hockey. So did his brothers.

"Some of our best memories are going on the bus as a team, and going to a tournament, just being with your friends, and representing your school." He said it helped him as a kid, and will help others to connect, with behavioural issues, and discipline.

"Our school credo is respect, commitment, responsibility, and we're trying to get these guys to buy in, learn, and want to feel part of the school." He noted some student athletes really thrive with contact sports, which have been lacking at the school.

Player Ty Rupnow said, "we've all been really excited to get going again. I think we all just wanted to play hockey at school; other people tell stories about how fun it was, so we really want to do that, so I'm really glad."

Parker Simms pulls on a jersey from years ago and comments, "just here to represent the school. It feels pretty good."

Jace Mills added, "I think it's just good to get back, get on the ice, play some hockey, and have some fun."

Morissette said it had been a lot of work and he couldn't have done it without the support of the school, including principal Jennifer Mills. Hal High teacher Ray Rietvelt is team trainer, and teacher Laura Kulas, team manager. He also thanked the community, singling out assistant coach, Nick Kulas, Nicki Dollo, who is the fundraising representative, and Clay Glecoff, the goalie coach.

This will mark the 35th year HHSS has had a hockey team. They are asking people to make a donation of a non-perishable food item or money to a local food bank at the door at all home games.

Looking at the kids after practice, the coach says, "we're excited to see if they have fun and how they do."

SCHEDULE:

Nov. 27 vs I.E. Weldon at A.J. LaRue Arena at 2 p.m.
Dec. 3 vs LCVI at Lindsay at 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 vs Adam Scott SS at home at 2 p.m.
Dec. 11 vs Campbellford SS at home at 2 p.m.
Dec. 16 vs St Pete's at Healthy Planet at 1:15 p.m.
Jan. 7-8 St Pete's Classic Tournament at Peterborough
Jan. 12 vs Holy Cross SS at Healthy Planet at 2 p.m.
Jan. 15 vs TASS at home at 2 p.m.
Feb. 5 vs FFSS at Fenelon Falls at 3 p.m.
Feb. 12 vs CCI Cobourg at home at 2 p.m.
Feb. 18 vs Crestwood SS at Cavan at 3 p.m.

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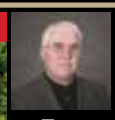

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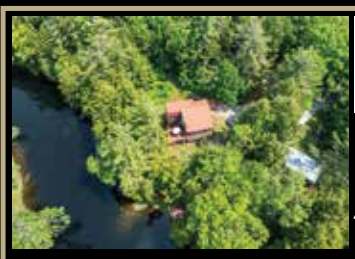

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Canada Postal workers will be on the parade route collecting letters for Santa

The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton & District Lions Club

Highlander events

Minden gets festive

The Christmas season arrived in Minden Hills this past weekend. It began with a tree lighting ceremony Friday night at the Village Green. That was followed by the Santa Claus parade on Saturday morning. (*Lisa Gervais*)

Top: Santa Claus arrives, bringing the annual parade to an end. Bottom left: Father Christmas (aka Jack Brezina) waves to the crowd. Bottom second: This Grinch rode atop a school bus. Bottom third: Kids wave from a float. Bottom right: It wouldn't be a parade without a pony. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• The Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be closed November 18 - 21, 2025 as we install our next exhibit. Join us starting on Saturday, November 22 for an exhibit featuring artwork from our permanent collection. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

• On Friday, November 21, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre invites families to join in our PA Day activities. Seasonal crafts, exhibits, and interactive experiences will be offered at Nature's Place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with admission by donation. In the afternoon, enjoy a free movie screening of *Mr. Bean's Holiday* (2007) in the Welch Room at 1:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• November 27 – Regular Council Meeting

• December 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

STRATEGIC PLAN – HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MINDEN HILLS

The Township of Minden Hills is working with Karen Jones Consulting Inc. to develop a Strategic Plan. We will be hosting sessions to gather information regarding priorities, opportunities for growth, collaboration, and more.

• Virtual Community Session – Wednesday, November 19, 2025 5:30 to 7:30 pm via Zoom to register email lfitton@mindenhills.ca

• Community Session – Thursday, November 27, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Community Room 1

• Business Session – Friday, November 28, 2025 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Community Room 1

The sessions are open to everyone. Kindly register to assist with session logistics. For information visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom or email admin@mindenhills.ca.

JOIN IN ON THE FUN

It's not too late to join one of our PA Day programs this Friday! Join us for a morning of fun at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in our half day camp or one of the drop-in programs we have available in the afternoon.

REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

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Junior highlanders

The junior boys volleyball team with their Kawartha Championship trophy. *Submitted.*

Junior boys volleyball team runner-up in COSSA

The Red Hawk junior boys volleyball team had a season to remember, said co-coach Janice Scheffee. “During their league tournaments, the Red Hawks were competitive with all teams including much larger AA and AAA schools,” she said. “Facing tough competition each week made the team work harder and develop better skills leading them into the Kawartha Championship tournament seeded first.” On Nov. 6, at Kenner Collegiate in Peterborough, they dominated St. Thomas, crowning them Kawartha champions and bringing home the coveted Kawartha trophy. At the COSSA Championships, at St. Thomas Aquinas in Lindsay Nov. 13, they squared off against Nicholson Catholic College from Belleville in the first semi-final. Despite losing the first set, the boys clawed their way back to win three sets sending them to the COSSA finals. Coming up against a talented Quinte Christian High School, the team played well but fell short losing in three tight sets. This marks the first time in HHSS history that a junior boys volleyball team has captured a medal at COSSA. The team was also coached by Brett Caputo. Players were: Lincoln Brown, Gideon Bordgorff, Duncan Evans-Fockler, Will Gallant, Luke Gruppe, Ross Gordon, Jadyn Hamilton, Parker Holden, Levi Joseph, Hudson Meyer, Travis Rowe, Matt Scheffee, Jack Tomlinson, and Jett Wilson. (*Lisa Gervais*)

Community Breakfast Event
Everyone's Welcome!
Community Breakfast – Join Us!
This is your invitation to a warm and friendly morning filled with good food and great company!
Date: Saturday, November 22
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Place: Haliburton United Church
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Hosted by: North Entrance Masonic Lodge & Haliburton United Church
Donations are heartily welcomed and will be put to good use. Best of all, part of the proceeds help support the elementary school breakfast program—so every meal you enjoy helps a child start their day right!
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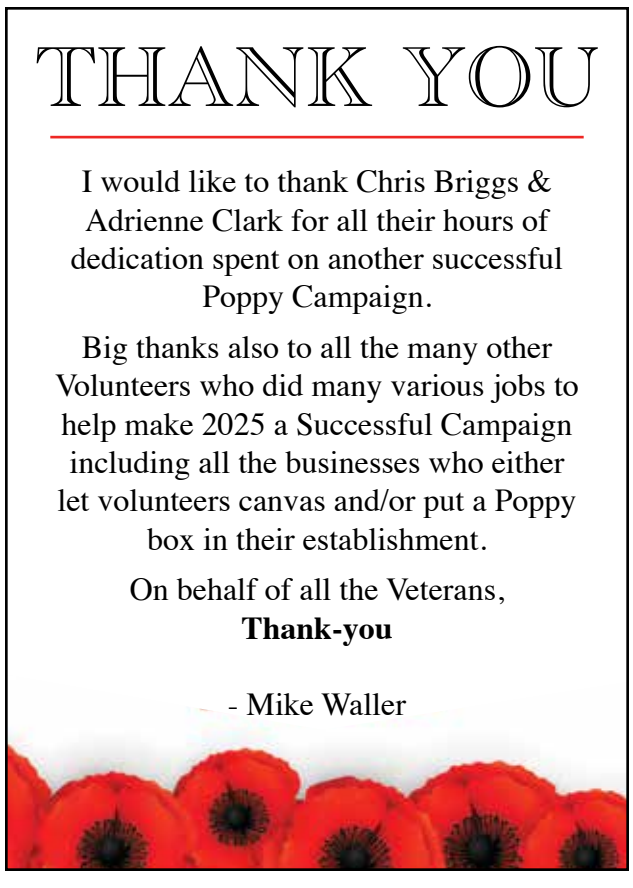
THANK YOU
I would like to thank Chris Briggs & Adrienne Clark for all their hours of dedication spent on another successful Poppy Campaign.
Big thanks also to all the many other Volunteers who did many various jobs to help make 2025 a Successful Campaign including all the businesses who either let volunteers canvas and/or put a Poppy box in their establishment.
On behalf of all the Veterans,
Thank-you
- Mike Waller

Junior highlanders

Left: The boys celebrate after a 28-26 set win. Right: Graham Backus serves one up. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

A silver lining for Red Hawk volleyballers

By Lisa Gervais

They may have fallen short of their goal of making OFSAA, but Hal High's senior boys' volleyball team did themselves and their school proud during the COSSA finals Nov. 13 on home turf.

"It was heartbreaking, but there's a certain peace to it because we played just unbelievably well," coach Justin Collins said.

He added, he and co-coach, Mike Gaffney, "talked about how proud we were of them because they exceeded our expectations in a million different ways. Obviously, you want to come away with a win, but it's hard not to look at it and say, 'you know what? while we would have liked a different outcome, it was a success as well'."

The team won their first match against North Hastings High School 3-2 to make the final, before losing to Quinte Christian High School Eagles 3-2 to take silver.

"Our goal was to get to OFSSA and we missed it, but a silver medal at COSSA is more than this school has ever had for boys' volleyball," Collins added.

The coach reflected on how he and Gaffney were fishing more than four years ago and pondered what they could do with some incoming Grade 8 athletes if they could work with them from Gr. 9 to Gr. 12. Four of six graduates have been with them since the start. The coaches have watched them grow as volleyball players, and as young men.

As for next year, Carlito Barbosa and Isaac Borgdorff will be returning and Collins said, "we have a strong group of juniors coming up."

In fact, the boys' junior volleyball team also won COSSA silver last Thursday.

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING
PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES
2026 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on **Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss projects and priorities for the 2026 Budget.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands. Members of the Public may also observe the Council meeting by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal/

Dated this 18th day of November 2025.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379 ext. 333
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is pleased to invite members and the public to our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **November 23, 2025** at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery Meeting Hall (6712 Gelert Rd.) between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

This year's guest speaker is Mitch Klatt from Rapala Canada with information on Rapala fishing products and knowledge to improve your fishing experience on our many inland lakes in Haliburton County.

A summary of the HHOA's activities for the past year will be shared as well as the last fiscal year's financial report. The opportunity for invitations of prospective HHOA Board directors will take place as well. This commitment leads to becoming involved in the workings of the HHOA and assisting in maintaining Haliburton County as a premier Outdoor Activity destination in the Province of Ontario and beyond.

Light refreshments will be available.

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A student looks at paintings on display at the Wilberforce Legion this past weekend. Inset: Luanne Coghlan with the students' work. *Photos by Ivy Reiss.*

Changing lives for seniors one painting at a time

By Ivy Reiss

"Calming, informative, and inspiring" is how one of Luann Coghlan's students described her free painting class for seniors.

Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting in on Coghlan's painting class at the Wilberforce Legion. It is one of the many activities funded for seniors by Haliburton County's Senior Active Living Centre (SALC). However, Coghlan's class is the only art-based program. The class has been wildly popular and it is not hard to see why.

Each bi-monthly class has a different focus, from landscapes, to cloudscapes, and most recently, painting poppies. Stepping into the classroom, I was shocked to learn that many of the painters were first-timers. It was unreal.

"Painting is like stopping the shutter on a camera and freezing it in time. Sometimes, I keep an image in my mind for years until I paint it," said Coghlan, who has been painting since she was 13 years old, trained at Niagara College, but mostly self-taught.

"Paint the world as you want to see it," Coghlan tells the class before she gently hovers around each student in the classroom, and masterpieces are created. She teaches various techniques and helps with the finer touches.

"I don't believe in making art just to be sellable; I see it as a form of therapy," says Coghlan. This passion comes through in how she connects with her students. "I am more of a sharer of art than a teacher."

Yet, Coghlan has been teaching privately for years, one-on-one classes, as well as paint parties. She also sells 'travelling artist' gift certificates, which someone can buy for a friend or loved one who has always wanted to try painting but may not be able to travel. "People just love it," she says.

Her artworks are featured at A Place for the Arts Gallery in Bancroft. If you have ever been into Highland Wood long-term care home in Haliburton, you have already seen Coghlan's artwork; she painted the large mural.

Coghlan also has a deep passion for Canada and its veterans, her father having fought in the war.

On Nov. 16, the Wilberforce Legion held a fundraiser event to upgrade the legion's kitchen. Coghlan and her artists were in attendance and their artworks from the last few months were on display.

Classes run twice a month until March. Connect with Luann Coghlan via Facebook or email luanncoghlan@gmail.com to get on the waitlist for the free painting class or get more information about her private classes.

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Celebrating art in public spaces

The Arts in Focus exhibition opened at The Link at HCDC Nov. 13. HCDC executive director Patti Tallman said, "this exhibition is to showcase the amazing talent of three local artists (photographers June Krisko, Huw Morgan and Greg Thurlbeck) and celebrate the newest art at The Link. She said HCDC is pleased to be part of the arts council's art in public spaces program. The Arts Council's Chris Lynd said they'd been showcasing work at The Link for some time. She said their mission is to be a strong voice for the arts in the community and promote the work of artist members ACM Designs sponsored the night. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Patti Tallman, executive director of the Haliburton County Development Corporation, and Chris Lynd of the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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Forward Julius Da Silva was a net-front menace during the Huskies 8-1 win over the St. Michael's Buzzers Nov. 15. *Photo by Cheryl McCombe.*

Huskies best run of season

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies head coach Jordan Bailey believes his team has turned a corner after picking up points in six of its last seven games – including back-to-back wins last weekend to propel them up the OJHL East Conference standings.

The blue and white secured confidence-boosting wins over the Pickering Panthers and St. Michael's Buzzers Nov. 14 and 15, before dropping a 3-2 decision on the road to the Georgetown Raiders Nov. 18. It was the team's first regulation defeat since Oct. 25, leaving them in seventh place in the division – just three points back of the Panthers in fourth.

"We're finding our way and figuring things out, definitely feel like we've been playing much better hockey as of late," Bailey said. "We've brought in a couple of new players, which has helped our room out and improved our play on the ice. It's kind of settled the team down bringing in some older guys."

Earlier this month, the team acquired 20-year-old Carson Durnin and 19 year olds Liam Oravsky and Jack Cook – who turns 20 tomorrow – from the Cobourg Cougars, bringing a veteran presence to a young Huskies squad.

Oravsky has been a revelation, putting up nine points in five games, with Durnin and Cook each chipping in with four points. The star of the show recently, though, has been alternate captain Isaac Larmand, who was named the OJHL's first star of the week Nov. 17 after notching five goals and adding an assist in the wins over Pickering and St. Mike's.

Bailey said the 20-year-old winger has taken his game to a new level recently.

"I think he'd been a bit snake-bitten before last week, getting chances that just weren't going in. We talked a little about that, he's a guy that sticks with the process, comes in every day to work. I was really happy for him to have that personal success, which gave us team success," Bailey said.

Big wins

The Huskies kicked off the weekend in the best way, beating the Panthers 4-3 on the road in Pickering.

After falling behind to an early Pickering powerplay goal, Larmand notched his third and fourth goals of the season late in the first, at 12:02 and 15:31, to give the visitors an advantage to defend. Pickering tied things in the second and took the lead early in the third, but the Huskies weren't to be denied.

The blue and white potted two goals in 62 seconds midway through the final frame – Julius Da Silva tying the game at 9:05, assisted by Josh Hutton and Ryan Gosse, with Nic Ferrante the hero, scoring the game-winner at 10:07 from Hutton and Carter Petrie.

"Our fourth line was massive for us – Petrie, Ferrante and [Lewis] Hergaarden were our best line all night against Pickering. Whenever you can get that kind of secondary scoring from your fourth line, that's going to help you win games," Bailey said.

The Huskies followed up with their best performance of the season Saturday at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, demolishing St. Mike's 8-1 on home ice.

Kieran Raynor opened the scoring midway through the first, with Larmand adding a hat-trick, Oravsky enjoying a four-point night and Gosse and Chase Del Colombo also tickling the twine. Eleven of the team's 17 skaters recorded points in the game, with goaltender Owen Edwards, a recent acquisition from the King Rebellion, picking up his second win as a Husky after stopping 29 of 30 shots.

Bailey said Saturday's shellacking was a big confidence-booster for his team.

"It's a good feeling throughout the room knowing that if we stick to a game plan and do the things we need to do, especially against a good St. Mike's team, these are the kinds of results you can have. It's nice to get a little more belief in the room," Bailey said.

Georgetown 3-2 Huskies

Despite firing 50 shots on net, the Huskies fell to their first regulation defeat for three weeks on Tuesday evening (Nov. 18), losing 3-2 on the road in Georgetown.

The two teams cancelled one another out in the first, but it was the Raiders who started quickest in the second – racing away with a 2-0 lead. Oravsky got the Huskies on the board 2:31 into the final frame, but an Aiden Lee penalty shot at 15:03 made it a two-goal game again.

Del Colombo gave the blue and white hope of a late rally, scoring his sixth goal of the season at 18:38, but that was as good as it got for the young squad. Bailey was disappointed with the result, feeling the Raiders were there for the taking.

"We missed the net too much on our chances – we had a lot of good opportunities to score, but we've got to hit the net and create secondary chances," he said. "I thought our first period was really good, their goalie made some good saves, but then we steered away from what we were doing well and cheated the game a little bit."

The Huskies are in the midst of a four-game road trip, with tilts against the Niagara Falls Canucks Nov. 21, St. Mike's Nov. 23, and King Nov. 25. They'll be back at home Nov. 29 for a grudge match against the rival Cobourg Cougars.

Home of the Highland Storm

Left: Tripp Meier breaks out of the Storm zone. Right: Wesley Bramham peels away from the Ennismore Eagles en route to the net. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Silverstick finalists

The U11 LL Carquest team played their hearts out in the Silverstick tournament - held at Highland Storm's home rink in Haliburton this past weekend.

They played five hard-fought games, making it to the Sunday finals. Our goalies, Isaiah Young and Jack Hunter, split duties in net and stood tall, only allowing 12 goals all weekend. Storm forwards, Dean DaLanca, Arizona Latanville, Francis Gilmour, Nixon Hopkins, Wesley Bramham, Chase Casella, Jaxon Pelley, Nolan Gallagher and Sebastian Dart played with determination, grit, passion and drive to get to the finals.

Some amazing backchecking, forechecking and playmaking from Bramham, Gallagher and Keaton DeCarlo stood out throughout the tournament. Gilmour was a solid utility player bouncing around where needed to help the team. Latanville, Casella and Hopkins fought hard on the wings playing their positions and defending the zone.

Storm players put in a solid team effort during their first game to secure a 4-2 win.

In game 2, the Storm's defence was incredible. Tripp Meier, Griffin Hunt and DeCarlo were backchecking and making smart plays, keeping the puck out of the defensive zone. Hunt and Meier also chipped in with pivotal goals to secure the win. Hunter scored his first goal as a forward while Young made great saves only allowing one goal.

Game 3 was a nail-biter with the Storm tying the Ennismore Eagles 3-3 to finish first in the A division.

Sunday morning, the Storm played the Apsley Flames in the semi-finals. In the first period, Apsley took a 1-0 lead. Dart tied it in the second with Apsley following with two quick goals, making it 3-1.

Storm coaches and crowd support got the players fired up in the third, which led to a DeLanca standout goal. DeLanca's digging and playmaking secured a beautiful assist on the tying goal by Pelley. It was an intense overtime, starting with three-on-three for three minutes, then two-on-two for two minutes. With there being no goal, it came down to one-on-one for one minute.

Storm coaches chose Dart for the final minute with him locking in the win with a five-hole wrist shot from inside the blue line.

In the final game, the Storm finished in second place with a tough loss to Ennismore.

Highland Storm's community support was heartwarming and made the tournament an amazing experience for all players and coaches. (*Submitted)*

STARS of the WEEK

SEBASTIAN DART

Unbelievable effort and drive, a true leader on the team.

JACK HUNTER

Jack continues to be a strong part of the team with his solid goaltending.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

ISAIAH YOUNG

Isaiah is always willing to put the work in and plays with heart in both net and out.

Photo submitted.

SCORE BOARD

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Nov. 10 U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs Sturgeon 4-2 W
U13 Rep Curry Chevrolet vs Lindsay 8-3 L
Nov. 12 U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Lindsay 5-3 W
Nov. 14 U15 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Kawartha 6-0 L
U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs Durham 3-1 L
U18 Rep Haliburton Timbermart vs Durham 8-0 W
Nov. 15 U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs. Orono 9-2 L
U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs Lindsay 6-3 W
U13 LL Casey's Water Well and Geothermal vs Mariposa 12-2 W
U11 Rep Tom Prentice & Sons vs Millbrook 7-0 W
U18 LL Haliburton A&W vs Durham 11-1 L
Nov.16 U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Woodville 8-3 L
U13 Rep Curry Chevrolet vs Brock 3-3 T
U18 LL Haliburton A&W vs Millbrook 3-3 T
U18 Rep Haliburton Timbermart vs Sturgeon 8-3 W

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.
Upcoming events: Drum circle Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 17 and 24 is darts at 7 p.m. $5/player
Tuesday: closed, special events only
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Nov. 26 is darts at 2 p.m. $5/player. There's also quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m., with the menu changing weekly. Cost is $10 per person. And Cribbage League starts at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Nov. 20 and 27 cornhole at 7 p.m. Nov. 27 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Nov. 21 is wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m. $15 per pound. Nov. 28 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, at noon; Fish and chips, one piece $15, two piece $20 .
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Nov. 29 is open mic from 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 29 is trivia night at 7 p.m. $5/player.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed

EVENTS

Nov. 20, 1 to 3 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Writers and Editors Network meeting at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635. Meetings run the third Thursday of each month.

Nov. 20, 7 p.m. Environment Haliburton! welcomes guest speaker David Robertson for a virtual enviro-café on the subject 'paving the path to climate hell', unpacking Ontario's high-cost energy plan. Register in advance at www.environmenthaliburton.org. Taking place via Zoom.

Nov. 21, 1 to 3 p.m. A special PA Day screening of Mr. Bean's Holiday at the Minden Hills library. Popcorn will be provided, no registration necessary. All ages are welcome – children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Nov. 21, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Help to kick off the festive season in the Highlands with the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade. There will be carolling at the town tree to start, with a tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 and the parade beginning at 6:30.

Nov. 22, 9 to 11 a.m. Community breakfast at the Haliburton United Church, located at 10 George St. Hosted by the North Entrance Masonic Lodge and Haliburton United Church. Donations are welcome, with proceeds supporting elementary school breakfast programs across the community. For more information, contact nelbrekky@victoriadistrict.com.

Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Haliburton Christmas Market at A.J. LaRue Arena. Come out and find the perfect gift for that special someone this festive period.

Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. The 12th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig takes over the Haliburton Legion. Tickets are $35 in advance, with all proceeds supporting Fuel for Warmth.

Nov. 23, noon to 3 p.m. Aging Together As Community is hosting a chili fundraiser and celebration of becoming an official not-for-profit agency. At the Haliburton Legion. Dr. Nell Thomas will present about 'love, vitality and value: the legacy of our elders' at 1:30 p.m. This is a 'pay what you can' event. Register by Nov. 20 at atachhevents@gmail.com or calling 705-457-6579.

Nov. 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Craft Sale at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce. Vendors will be selling Christmas-themed crafts, gifts and baked goods. Contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca for more information.

Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a Christmas book sale at the Dysart branch. Pick from your favourite genre – thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, and more. Cash or cheque only. Proceeds will support library enhancements and programs across the County.

Nov. 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday Artisan Market at Stanhope Community Centre. Over 20 local artisans will have an array of homemade gift ideas for everyone on your list. Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Minden Community Food Centre.

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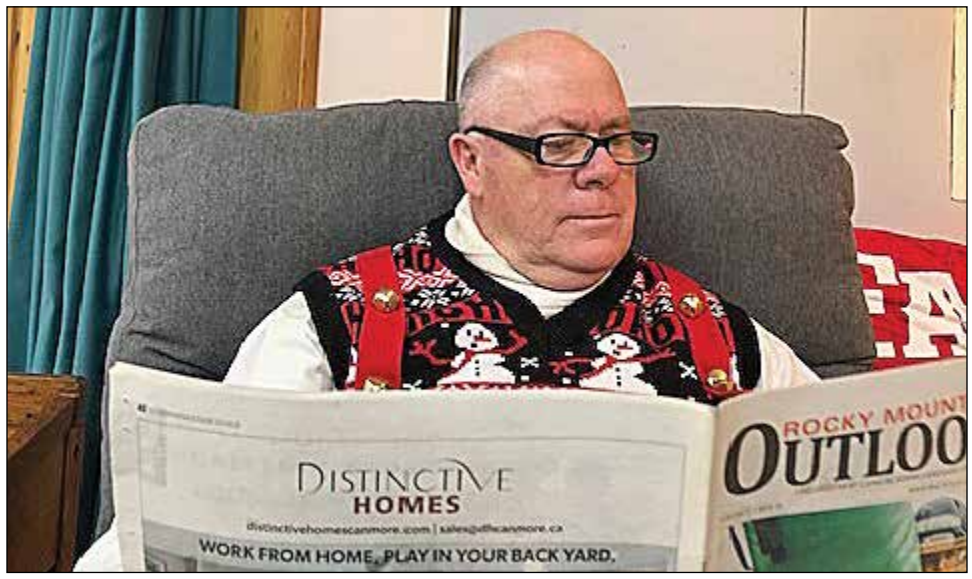

Phil Lawr plays Stan, one of the beleaguered hosts in the Loop Troupe's festive production *Tinsel, Turkey and Turmoil. Photo submitted.*

Loop Troupe brings barrel of laughs to Highlands East

By Mike Baker

Highlands residents are in for a treat this weekend, says local playwright Mary Barker, as the Loop Troupe prepares to bring its latest production *Tinsel, Turkey and Turmoil* to life at Wilberforce's Lloyd Watson Centre.

The show, penned by Barker, draws inspiration from several classic festive favourites. It tells the story of Carol and Stan, a married couple thrust into the spotlight on Christmas Day.

"Every year, Carol's mom hosts a big family Christmas dinner. Well, this year, her flight has been delayed and she's not going to be around to prepare the meal. So, the chef's hat has been tossed to Carol, who definitely does not cook," Barker said. "It's a comedy with a lot of laughs. Carol is tossed completely into the deep end, having to feed all the relatives and half the neighbourhood."

There are 19 main characters involved – the largest cast the Loop Troupe has ever pulled together. This will be the theatre group's first full-length feature and third play, after *Skit-oodles*, which debuted in 2004, and *Riches & Ransom*, performed this past April.

Following the success of *Riches & Ransom*, which was Barker's first attempt at playwriting, the group decided they wanted to continue producing their own material.

"We figured that way, anyone who wants to be in it can be. I sent an email, expecting to hook a few people, but the response was incredible," Barker said. "When we resurrected the Loop Troupe in 2023, everyone wanted to be backstage only. Fast-forward a couple of years and we are putting on a play with 19 actors.

"The whole troupe have turned into real hams – and very good actors," Barker added.

Knowing the cast so well allowed Barker to personalize all her roles. The lead, Carol, will be played by her daughter, Jodi Rupnow, with her husband, Stan, portrayed by Phil Lawr.

"It's more for an adult audience than for kids – there are themes and jokes not suitable for young ears," Barker said. Noting there will be a snack bar during intermission, with all treats priced at $1, she added, "we're telling people to come for the cookies and stay for the chaos."

Barker said she's thankful that she's still here to see the production – in June, just two days after finishing the script, she was rushed into surgery for an emergency heart procedure.

She's spent the summer recuperating and, after handing the reins to director Janice Dahms, is excited to see her story explode to life – there are two shows this weekend, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $15 in advance, available at Agnew's General Store or by contacting Barker at marybarker@bell.net, or $20 at the door.

This will be the troupe's final stage performance of the season – though Barker said they are preparing a short skit to be performed at a Christmas carol service at Essonville Historic Church Dec. 21.

Looking to next year, Barker said she's unsure if the Loop Troupe will pull together another original feature. She said she wants to do another performance of *Skit-oodles* in the spring.

After investing in a new sound system for the Lloyd Watson, Barker said the next enhancement is securing soundproofing baffles for the walls, to limit echo. The Loop Troupe has asked Highlands East township for $4,000 to pay for the panels.

"We don't know if it will be approved – but it's something we think will really help to improve issues we have in the room with sound, which will increase the quality of our performances," Barker said.

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Municipality of Dysart et al
www.dysartetal.ca/jollyjog

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Christmas jams and jellies, stocking stuffers, garlic and garlic powder and seed garlic. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, 2.2k from County Road 21. 705-286-2627 or 705-457-0090. Highland Garlic will now be Open until November 23. To all of our customers, Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season and we will see you next year.

FOR SALE – 4 Used Steel Rims 17" 225/65R17 from 2008 RAV 4, Asking $175. - 4 Used Pirelli Winter Tires 15", Ice Zero 195/65R15 with rims, from 2010 Toyota Corolla, asking $400. - 4 Used Rovello Summer Tires 225/55R17 with rims, from 2014 Subaru Crosstrek, asking $300. - Used Universal Gym Set, asking $200. Please call 705-854-1953

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Massey 202 workbull tractor with loader and ice chains. In good running condition. $5500 or best offer. Text 705-935-1105 or email dusty2348@gmail.com

FOR SALE - 4 Snow Tires on Rims, 205/60R16 from Mitsubishi Lancer, great condition. Great value at total $250 firm. Also, 4 Radial M+S Tires on rims, 225/60R16 98H Great condition. Great value at total $250 firm.

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HELP WANTED

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Digital Transformation Specialist (13-month contract, full-time)

Due to an upcoming maternity leave, the Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our team in the role of Digital Transformation Specialist. Salary range is $80,464 - $94,131 commensurate with skills and experience. A detailed job description is available at dysartetal.ca/careers for your review.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Sonja Marx at hr@dysartetal.ca, and indicate **Digital Transformation Specialist** as the subject. Applications must be submitted via email and may be accepted until 4:00 pm on Friday, November 28, 2025, with an anticipated start date of February 2, 2026.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Sewage System Program Inspector/Administrator

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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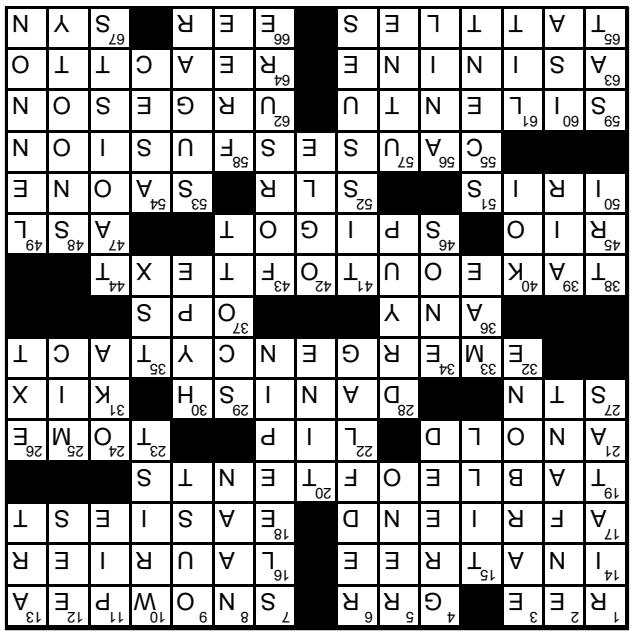

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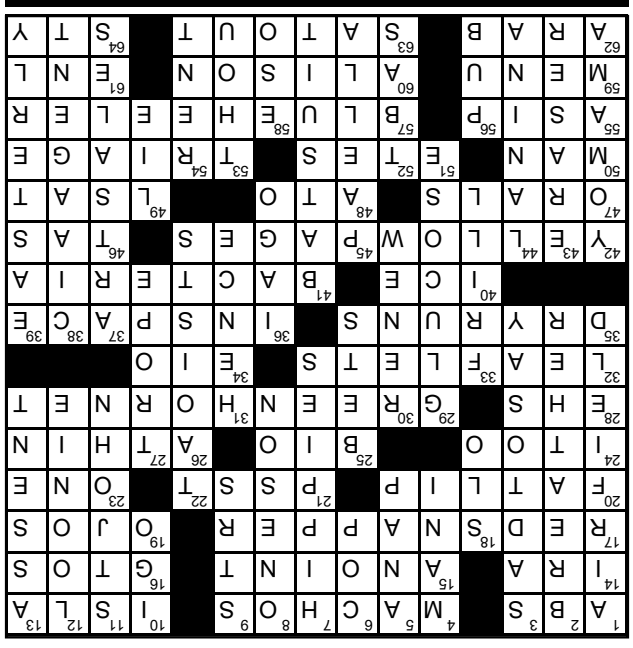

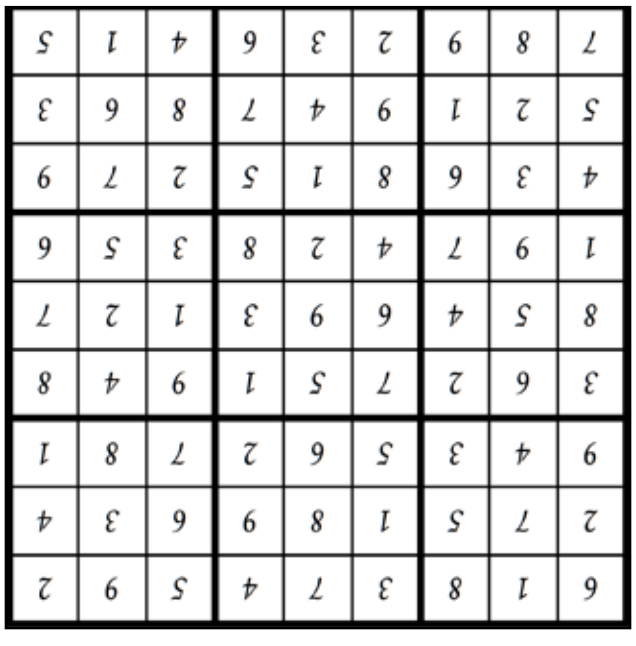

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BUSINESS SALE

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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Muriel Ellen Bird
(nee Moore)

Passed away peacefully at the Centennial Manor, Bancroft on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at the age of 87.

Beloved wife of the late Earl. Dear mother of Laura, Michael, Nancy and Julie (Rick). Loving grandma of Carly, David, Kadie, Emily and Christian. Dear sister of Garnet (deceased), Helen (Alan) and Dennis (Sandra). Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends and also missed by Patricia Clark (Fazzolari).

Muriel was very proud to be part of the Royal Canadian Airforce in Cold Lake, Alberta, serving in the administration department. She was a talented quilter, baker; she loved camping and spending time with her family. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the compassionate staff and residents at the Hastings Centennial Manor where Muriel was a resident and where she was treated like family.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Thursday, November 20, 2025 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Muriel's Life at 12:30 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Interment at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Boshkung.

Memorial Donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family.

"Rest now Mom"

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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NOTICE

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

TheHighlander

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Highlander puzzles

Shady Characters

by Barbara Olson
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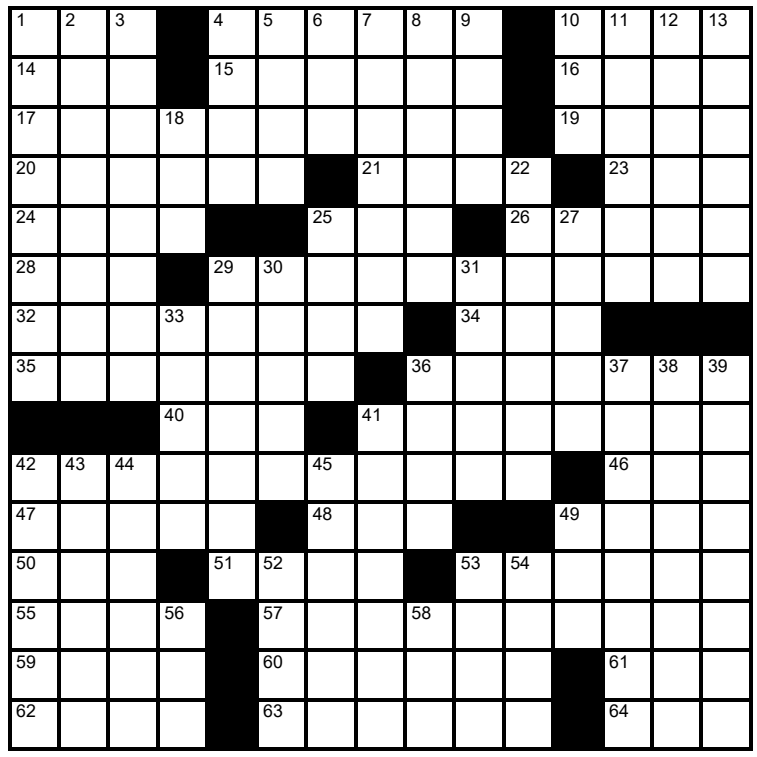

Across

1 "Washboard" muscles
4 Muscled tough guys
10 Puerto Rico, e.g., to Pedro
14 "A Kiss Before Dying" writer Levin
15 Consecrate with oil
16 Sporty '60s Pontiacs
17 Mao in a testy mood?
19 Spanish "eyes"
20 Big mouth on a bigmouth
21 Sibilant summons
23 Dollar value of 12-Down
24 Langston Hughes title start
25 Short life lines?
26 Walk ___ line (tread carefully)
28 Canadian speech tics, some say
29 Naive stinging insect?
32 Handouts to passersby
34 Vowel string
35 Practice sessions
36 The Muppets alien sketch "Pigs ___"
40 Zamboni surface
41 Virus counterpart
42 Cowardly House of Commons aides?
46 Classroom helpers, for short
47 Tests of talking points?
48 Go from ___ B
49 Aspiring prosecutor's exam: Abbr.
50 Wab Kinew's prov.
51 Nous sommes, vous ___, ils sont
53 Trauma patient sorting
55 Take ___ (drink slowly)
57 Melancholy cobbler?
59 Restaurant window writing
60 Bluegrass singer Krauss
61 Bigger picture: Abbr.
62 Doha dweller
63 Stayed on the sidelines
64 Wilbur's digs

Down

1 Hangar locale
2 Chance to take five
3 "Alas..."
4 Fingernail treatment, for short
5 Take ___ (catch some z's))
6 Accident report taker
7 Many Woodstock fans
8 Number ___ (Chan's eldest boy)
9 Bosporus and Bering: Abbr.
10 "Where did ___ wrong!?"
11 He baptized Jesus
12 See 23-Across
13 Go-ahead
18 ___-mo
22 Yin-yang adherents
25 Gets in the pool?
27 Common theme, like a rom-com meet cute
29 Blood sugar
30 Slow reader's library option
31 Therefore
33 Petticoat adornment
36 He's said to be Shakespeare's evillest character
37 Events to get deals on Dalis
38 Jack Ryan or Jason Bourne
39 Atlantic wind off Labrador
41 Gotham City garb
42 Modern "So's yer old lady!"
43 Item to get the lead out?
44 "Feminine" weather words
45 Spanish rice dish
49 Fail a polygraph
52 "Not sure yet" sched. notes
53 "___ art a very ragged wart": Shakespeare
54 Word with "a car" or "a cop"
56 Common "Coronation Street" setting
58 Anka's "___ Beso"

Can you eat with your dentures? ~ The answer should be yes, call us!

Highlander sudoku
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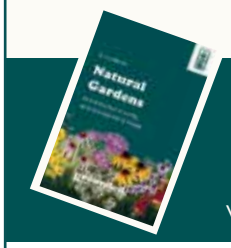
Natural gardens
and shorelines
designed and installed



For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

								2
					9	6	3	
		3				7	8	1
	6		7		1			
8	5	4	6		3			
								6
4	3	6	8				7	
	2	1			7			3
		9			6			5

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MLS X12095585

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